

Tribal Program Newsletter

Do not judge your neighbor until you walk two moons in his moccasins. (Cheyenne)

Meetings and conferences

Sept. 8-9 **The Environmental Water Account Workshop (EWA), Sacramento, CA**

The CALFED Science Program will host a 2-day workshop to examine the first four years of the EWA and to discuss issues related to a longer-term EWA. This workshop will replace the EWA salmon and delta smelt workshops that have been held in late summer of the previous three years. Material presented at this workshop will be used to develop conclusions and recommendations to be presented to the EWA Technical Review Panel in November 2004. Please visit our Web site for agenda updates: <http://198.31.87.66/workshop/ewa.shtml> or email davina@calwater.ca.gov, or call (916) 445-5825.

Sept 20-21 **8th Annual Conference on Environmental and Natural Resources Law on the Reservations, Phoenix, AZ**

For more information, please call (800) 873-7130 or to go: <http://www.cle.com>

Sept. 20-22 **National Brownfields Conference 2004, St. Louis, MO**

Sponsored by EPA and the International City-County Management Association (ICMA), the national brownfields conference is the official annual event on brownfields cleanup and redevelopment. For additional information and to register, please go to: <http://www.brownfields2004.org>.

Sept. 20-24 **Monitoring Science and Technology Symposium, Denver, CO**

The theme of the symposium is "Unifying Knowledge for Sustainability in the Western Hemisphere" and is designed to provide an opportunity for individuals to exchange ideas and network to promote global sustainability through monitoring science and technology. For additional information, please go to: <http://www.monitoringsymposium.com>

- Sept. 28-30 **Community Health Assessment: Current Issues and Future Directions, Atlanta, GA**
Sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Assessment Initiative and the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems Leadership Institute. The goal of the conference is to share information on innovative systems and methods that improve the way data are used to inform public health programs, services, and policy at the state and local level. For additional information or to register, please go to <http://www.sinup4.net/public/ap.aspx?EID=COMM11E>
- Oct. 3-11 **National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) 61st Annual Session, Lauderdale, FL**
The theme for this year's NCAI Annual Session is "Renewing the Vision: Setting a New Course for Indian Country" and will focus on such issues as self determination, Native Vote 2004, and other important issues facing Indian Country. For additional information and to register, go to: http://www.ncai.org/main/pages/national_calendar/ncai_events.asp
- Oct. 21-24 **SACNAS National Conference, Austin, TX**
The theme for this year's Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) National Conference is "Science and Science Policy: Constructing an Inclusive Paradigm." The conference will explore the link between current science policy issues and those communities most affected by them. For additional information, to register, or to apply for financial aid to attend, please visit: <http://www.sacnas.org>.
- Oct. 26-27 **Watershed Working Lands Summit: Better Water Quality through Better Government Collaboration, Sacramento, CA**
EPA is one of many co-sponsors of this event. Tribes are part of the targeted audience and are featured in a session on "Working Lands and First Nations." To register for this meeting, please click on: <http://www.asiwpca.org/events/other/htm>.
- Oct. 25-26 **Regional Tribal Operation Committee (RTOC), San Francisco, CA**
The RTOC will meet at the Holiday Inn Golden Gate prior to the 12th Annual Region 9 Tribal/EPA Conference. Critical topics which must be heard by all RTOC members must be emailed to Michele Dineyaze by September 17. For more information, contact her at (415) 972-3786 or email dineyazhe.michele@epa.gov
- Oct. 27-29 **The 12th Annual Region 9 Tribal/EPA Conference, San Francisco, CA**
The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Golden Gate. It will be hosted by the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. All forms may be obtained by calling Lela Leyva, Conference Coordinator, (775) 574-1000 ext. 245; Fax (775) 574-1008; lleyva@plpt.nsn.us

The following grant-related session will be addressed at the annual conference and will be useful for tribal leaders, managers, and staff who do not have any, or very little, exposure to EPA Grants:

Basic grant requirements - overview

The EPA Grants Management Office will provide an overview of the EPA administrative and financial grant requirements, focusing on the application and budgeting process, the grant award, requesting payments and rebudgeting, financial reporting, and grant closeout requirements.

The following two sessions will also be addressed at the annual conference and will provide more detailed information on various grant issues and requirements, and will be especially useful for those tribal leaders, managers, and staff who currently work with EPA grants:

Grant updates/developments

The EPA Grants Management and Accounting Offices will discuss recently emphasized and/or recently issued grant requirements and/or policies which may affect your grants, such as MBE/WBE reporting requirements, grant closeout policy, the automated standard application for payments (ASAP), indirect costs, etc.

Common grant issues - on-site visits

The EPA Grants Management and Accounting Offices will discuss administrative and financial system questions that are most often asked by grant recipients during EPA grant on-site visits. This session will also include a tribal fiscal representative who will share some of her accounting system experiences. This session will provide tips on how to meet grant administrative and financial system requirements and will include topics such as documentation and tracking of personnel time and cost share/match costs, contracting, purchasing, and record keeping requirements and setting up systems.

Nov. 3-5 Youth Groundwater Congress, Washington, DC

The Groundwater Foundation is launching a Youth Groundwater Congress in conjunction with the Foundation's Annual Conference. The Congress will provide a forum to increase youth leadership and involvement in groundwater protection and conservation. Youth ages 10-17 from throughout the United States who are interested in groundwater and water-related issues are eligible to apply for the Congress. All Congress delegates will be required to be accompanied by an adult. Youth interested in attending the Congress will need to complete an application and submit a 500-1,000 word essay. Applicants will also be required to include a letter of recommendation from a teacher, scout leader, or community member. Applications are due to The Groundwater Foundation by September 17, 2004. The Groundwater Foundation will offer limited travel scholarships for Congress delegates based on need. For more information or an application, call 1-800-858-4844 or email Sharon@groundwater.org.

Nov. 11-13 2004 American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) National Conference, Anchorage, AK

The theme for the 2004 AISES National Conference is "Expanding the Circle" and will include a career fair, panel discussions, and workshops for students, educators, and professionals. AISES is currently seeking proposals for session presenters. The deadline for proposals is August 27, 2004. For additional information, to register, or for information on submitting a session proposal, please go to: www.aises.org/events/2004. (Sorry about the proposal deadline; we received this notice after the August newsletter had been mailed out.)

Dec. 5-8 2004 Society for Risk Analysis (SEA) Annual Meeting, Palm Springs, CA

The theme for this year's SEA annual meeting is "Risk Analysis: The Profession and the Future." For more information, please call (703) 790-1745 or email lstrong@burkinc.com

Oct. 2005 The 13th Tribal/EPA Conference

Picayune Rancheria will co-host the 2005 EPA Tribal Environmental Conference. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters.

Training

- Oct. 5-7 **GPS Introduction for Conservation Professionals.**
Classes will be held at the Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown, WVA (near Washington, DC). Funding covers tuition and per diem (food and lodging). Air fare and rental car must be provided by participant. For application information, contact Bonnie Gallahan, the USGS/FGDC Training and Education Coordinator/Tribal Liaison at bgallahan@usgs.gov or (703) 648-6084.
- Dec. 14-16 **5th National EPA Inspector Workshop, Washington, D.C.**
EPA is once again in the process of putting together an agenda/plan for the National EPA Inspector Workshop. Email any suggestions, requests, comments to Mary Wesling, wesling.mary@epa.gov, phone(415) 972-3080 or Fax (415) 947-3520 as soon as you can to ensure that they are considered in the planning process.

Environmental hazard assessment in Indian country

This course is presented by volunteers working with Indian Country Environmental Hazard Assessment Project. This free course is presented upon request and will come to you. Participants will learn methods for identifying and assessing environmental health hazards in the home, workplace and community. For more information, contact Harvard School of Public Health, Attn: Barbara Blanchard, 677 Huntington Ave., CCPE-Dept A, Boston MA 02115-6096 (617) 384-8687 or email: bblancha@hsph.harvard.edu

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals at North Arizona University (ITEP/NAU)

- Sept. 14-17 **Basic Inspector Training**
- Oct. 4-8 **Air Quality Computations, Level 1, Las Vegas, NV** A cooperative effort between NAU and U.S. EPA, the American Indian Air Quality Training Programs seeks to fulfill the mandate of the 1990 Clean Air Act to offer Native American tribes full partnership in the management of air quality on tribal lands. For more information, call (928) 523-7792; Fax (928) 523-1266 or go to <http://www.aug.edu/itep/>

Information on the above courses is available from the ITEP/NAU Web site <http://www4.nau.edu/itep/trainings/eci.asp> or by contacting Todd Barbell at (928) 523-3840 or Todd.Barnell@nau.edu.

Environmental Radiation Monitoring Training for Tribes (ERMTT)

The course will be scheduled in the Fall of 2004. The purpose of the ERMTT program is to assist tribes that are dealing with impact from activities that may result in radiation emissions. These may be impacts from mining, milling, nuclear power production, nuclear waste storage, nuclear research, or any other impact that includes the potential of radiation emissions. Funding from U. S. EPA will provide full participant support for lodging and travel. Also, U.S. EPA will compensate tribal instructors that help develop or teach the course. If interested please contact Mansel A. Nelson, (928) 523-1275, email mansel.nelson@nau.edu or visit <http://www4.nau.edu.eeop/ermtt>

Bill Helmich Associates Training Seminars

A brochure for training seminars for September 2004 is available from Bill Helmich Associates, P. O Box 789, Sandia Park, NM 87047, (505) 281-9884 or visit <http://www.billhelmichassociates.com> for more information.

National Enforcement Training Institute (NETI)

The most up-to-date list of enforcement/compliance monitoring courses offered by EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance is now available online. NETI is also advertising some EPA Regional office-sponsored courses from Regions 4, 5 and 6. September classes of some of the most popular enforcement courses such as Basic Inspector, Advanced Inspector, and Advanced Negotiations Skills training are now available. A catalog and schedule list of videos and CD-ROM courses can be mailed to you free of charge. Go to <http://www.netionline.com/> and register as a student at EPA's "virtual university," NETI Online, and start class in your own office!

Continuing Challenge Workshop

The Continuing Challenge Workshop will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Sacramento beginning September 7. Advancement in hazard materials emergency response are dynamic and this cooperative educational venture for HazMat Responders features classroom sessions, outdoor workshops. For more information call (916) 433-1688.

Grants and Loans

Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program (CHLP)

Letter of Intent Due: 09/22/04

Each year, the Robert Wood Johnson CHLP honors 10 outstanding individuals who overcome daunting odds to expand access to health care and social services to under served and isolated populations in communities across the U.S. Each is awarded \$120,000: \$105,000 for program support and \$15,000 as a personal stipend. For additional information and to develop a nomination packet, please go to: <http://communityhealthleaders.org/>

Drinking water tribal set-aside solicitation

U.S. EPA is soliciting proposals from tribes in Region 9 under the Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside Program. This program provides the opportunity for tribes in

Region 9 (California, Arizona, and Nevada) to obtain EPA grants for improvements to public water systems (PWS). The funding will be used to address the most significant public health threats posed by inadequate public drinking water system infrastructure. The new arsenic standard of 10 ppb takes effect in January of 2006 so all systems with arsenic levels at 10 ppb or higher should be in the planning process to determine what method they will implement to achieve the new standard. When submitting proposals, applicants can request assistance for a feasibility study or, if a study has already been completed, for construction funding. Project proposal forms (and feasibility studies if applicable) must be postmarked by October 22, 2004. The solicitation is available on the EPA Region 9 Grants Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/region09/funding/dwtsa.html>. For more information, please contact your EPA PWS Program Manager or call Sara Jacobs at (415) 972-3564.

Veneman announces availability of \$9 Million in broadband grant funds

Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced that \$9 million in grant funds were available for connecting essential community facilities in rural towns and communities where no broadband service exists. The Broadband Community Connect program is in its third year, having already invested \$21.3 million in grant funds to connect essential services of police and fire protection, local government, hospitals, libraries and schools to broadband service. To date, this program has connected 74 communities to high-speed telecommunications. In return, the communities will make at least 10 computers available to the public with set hours and instruction available for use on the Internet. The notice of funding availability appears in the July 28 Federal Register. All applications must be received by September 13. Submit electronic grant application at <http://www.grants.gov> and follow the instructions found on the Web site. Completed paper applications are to be submitted to the Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 5151, STOP 1590, Washington, DC 20250-1590. Applications should be marked "Attention: Assistant Administrator, Telecommunications Program," and postmarked by midnight, September 13, 2004.

Miscellaneous Items

Looking for environmental work?

The U. S. EPA Region 9 is hiring personnel to assist tribes with environmental program development. For more information contact: Robin Cooper at (415) 972-3830 or visit <http://www.epa.gov/ezhire>

Request for Comment: Office of Water (OW) Tribal Plan 2005 - 2008

EPA's OW is requesting comment on a new draft document, *Protecting Public Health and Water Resources in Indian Country: A Plan for EPA/Tribal Partnership, 2005 - 2008*. This document was developed by OW's National Water Program to help ensure that available agency resources are applied in consistent and focused ways that maximize their positive impacts on human health and the environment in Indian country. It is designed to create EPA/tribal partnerships that protect human health and aquatic ecosystems in Indian country by supporting the development of clean water and safe drinking water programs. The draft 2005 - 2008 OW tribal plan, with appendices, is posted on the Internet at: <http://www.epa.gov/water/waterplan/#final>. If you experience difficulty accessing the document, please contact Karen Rudek at rudek.karen@pa.gov, or call her at (202)564-0472 and a paper copy will be mailed to you. Comments are due to EPA's Office of Water by September 30, 2004.

UN Working Group on a Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (WGDD)

The following is the Web site of the U.S. inter-agency delegation to the United Nation's Working Group on a Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (WGDD). <http://www.unhchr.ch/huridocda/huridoca.nsf>
In addition to the U.S. Department of State, the inter-agency delegation includes the Departments of Justice and Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency. The U.N. Draft Declaration has been under consideration by the U.N. member governments since 1994. The draft contains 45 articles and includes references to management of land and resources as well as to self-government and the relationship between States and Indigenous peoples. The Department encourages tribal representatives to review the documents and invitation on this site and send comments and RSVPs to wgdd@state.gov

Web sites for Tribal Programs and other EPA Programs

EPA Region 9

http://www.epa.gov/region09/cross_pr/indian/newslet.html

American Indian Environmental Office (EPA)

<http://www.epa.gov/indian>

Office of Compliance (EPA)

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance>

National Compliance Assistance Clearinghouse
<http://www.epa.gov/clearinghouse>

Pollution Prevention and Environmental Management
<http://www.michigan.gov/deq/>

Tribal Court Clearinghouse
<http://www.tribal-institute.org/>

National Tribal Environmental Council
<http://www.ntec.org/>

Inter Tribal Council of Arizona
<http://www.itcaonline.com>

Federal Indian Law Handbook
<http://www.thorpe.ou.edu/cohen/html>

National Tribal Justice Resource Center
<http://www.tribalresourcescenter.org>

National Congress of American Indians
<http://www.ncai.org>

Center for Disease Control
<http://www.cdc.gov>

ITCA's Tribal Air National ListServ
TribalAir-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

National Water Program Strategic Plan 2004 - 2008 and National Program Guidance for 2005
<http://www.epa.gov/water/waterplan/index.html>

For information to be submitted to the Tribal Program Newsletter, contact:

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